

THE SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, the 5th March 1930.

The Assembly met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at 11-30 of the clock, the Dewan presiding.

DEWAN: Gentlemen, before we begin the work for the day, I would draw your attention to a rule allotting the time for each representation as fifteen minutes. It is not a new rule. I am mentioning this for the benefit of those among you who might be new members of the Assembly. You will all agree that that is a desirable rule to be observed; because there are so many of you who have come from different parts of the country at very great inconvenience to yourselves and at very great sacrifice, perhaps, of your business interests, each one would be waiting to finish his representation as early as possible. I would, therefore, suggest, at the very beginning, that members making representations should, as far as possible, observe the rule.

The procedure we shall follow is this. The Chief Secretary will call out the name of a member and that member will then please make his representation.

The consideration of the subjects according to the list distributed among the members on the previous day was then taken up.

1. Finance.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group II*) requested the Dewan to convey to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent the congratulations of the Assembly on the conferment of the title of C. I. on Her Highness by His Majesty the King Emperor and also their gratification in entertaining Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Irwin during their recent visit to Travancore. He also expressed his sense of pleasure in being able to make his representation before a Travancorean Dewan.

Passing on to his subject, he first spoke about the delay in filling up vacancies in the several departments and in deciding administrative questions and the consequent hardship and difficulties the people were put to. As an instance in point, he referred to the belated appointment of the Stationary Magistrate at Quilon.

The opening Address of the Dewan did not make mention of several important subjects such as the reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the creation of an Executive Council, the change of the existing system of education, revision of the terms of the Interportal Trade Convention and economic development. The State was having a surplus budget year by year. A mere surplus and its investment in foreign

banks at low rates of interest was not a desirable thing. The surplus should be utilised for improving the economic condition of the people; and if ways could be devised for that purpose, the tax on lands should be reduced.

With a view to promote temperance, the Government were pursuing a policy of reducing the number of liquor shops year by year. Side by side with this, the growth of illicit shops should be put down with a stern hand, if the policy should be effective.

Other suggestions made by the member were the following :—

- (1) Abolition of toll on vehicles and levy of duty on petrol consumption as in British India ;
- (2) revision of the terms of the Interportal Trade Convention ;
- (3) the desirability of taking up the Quilon-Trivandrum railway under Government management ;
- (4) establishment of land mortgage banks ;
- (5) re-organisation of the Agricultural and Industries Departments ;
- (6) adoption of measures for improving agricultural live-stock and preventing their slaughter ;
- (7) finding out remedies for unemployment ;
- (8) reform of the existing system of education ;
- (9) prohibition of the use of liquor and other intoxicating substances ;
- (10) appointment of a committee to enquire into the causes of the liquidation of companies and *chitties* ;
- (11) development of cottage and factory industries ;
- (12) adoption of measures for putting down corruption in the public service and for reducing the expenditure on salaries ;
- (13) reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly ;
- (14) creation of an Executive Council ; and
- (15) need for introducing responsible Government.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raman Pillai, I shall with the greatest pleasure convey, to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, the congratulations of this Assembly which you, on their behalf, requested me to convey to Her Highness. I shall also be glad to convey to Her Highness your assurance of the pleasure which the people of Travancore have had in entertaining His Excellency the Viceroy and H. E. Lady Irwin during their recent visit to Travancore. I also thank you for the appreciative words in which you referred to my appointment as Dewan of this State.

With reference to the specific representations that you made, I must say, in the first place, that the fact that no mention was made of a particular subject in my Address to the Assembly yesterday does not show that that subject is not engaging the attention of Government. As I said in that Address, I have made mention in it of only accomplished

facts, either measures that have been taken in 1104, or measures that have been adopted till now in 1105. I may assure you that the list of subjects mentioned in my Address is not an exhaustive list of the subjects engaging the attention of Government.

Then, you said that there is delay in certain matters. I do not know myself that there is any reason to say that there is more delay now than there was before, or that all those subjects, in which you might find some delay in disposal, are subjects that arose recently. Unfortunately, it cannot be denied that there has been delay in certain matters. Before you say that the delay in a particular case is a fault, you have to see what the subject is. In certain matters, it may be necessary for Government to act with great circumspection and that might take some time. There may be other cases where there has been delay due to certain circumstances which at the time could not be avoided. You may rest assured that, so far as I am concerned, I am doing my best and shall continue to do my best to see that matters arising in the course of my administration are disposed of as early as possible.

You have referred in your representation to several important matters which have to be carefully considered by the Government and in which steps for improvement will have to be taken by the Government. I may assure you that your suggestions in those matters will be carefully noted and made use of whenever occasion arises.

You then spoke about the surpluses in the Budget. A study of the budget of this year or of the previous years will show that the policy of the Government is not to pile up surpluses, after starving useful departments of public work. You would find that the development departments are getting, from year to year, larger and larger amounts for their development and improvement.

With regard to the Excise Department, you said that the steps that the Government have been taking till now have not been effective enough to bring down the consumption of liquor and to promote temperance. I cannot say that I agree with you fully; because, for one thing, there is successive reduction year after year in the number of shops. You might have noted from the Address that I read yesterday that such reduction during the last year was about five per cent.

MEMBER: But consumption has increased.

DEWAN: That is only one aspect of the question. When we deal with the large question of temperance, we should not confine our attention to one aspect alone. We have to view it in a comprehensive way. If you do that, you will find that the Government are taking steps gradually to reduce the use of liquor and to promote temperance and you may rest assured that they will continue to do so.

With regard to the various other suggestions that you made in, your representation, Mr. Raman Pillai, they will all be given the best consideration by Government.